

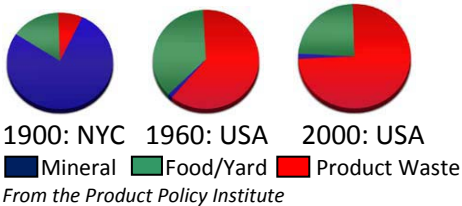
Massachusetts Campaign for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)



Producers Are Making Waste

Municipalities Are Left Holding the (Trash) Bag

When municipalities started managing solid waste more than a century ago, household waste was mostly coal ash left over from heating and cooking. The rest was food scraps and a small amount of product and packaging refuse, such as paper and glass.



Now three-quarters of what we throw away is products and packaging. Much of this material is made for one-time-use, and much of it is toxic. **Local governments are burdened with the costs of managing large volumes of items that were not designed to be safely disassembled, reused, or recycled:** computers, TVs, cameras, batteries, fluorescent bulbs, and countless other products.

Costs are misplaced onto local tax base

Regardless of who makes or buys a product, municipal taxpayers and ratepayers pay for its management when it's discarded.

Disposal or recycling of products and packaging cost municipalities \$\$\$.

Contamination clean-up from discarded products is an additional burden on taxpayers.



Extended Producer Responsibility closes the loop

Requiring manufacturers to pay for the collection and recycling of their products:

Gives producers an incentive to design products that are less toxic, and more reusable and recyclable.

Allows the end-of-use costs to be incorporated into the purchase price of a product so that these costs are shared by the producers and consumers of that product.

Relieves the financial burden on local governments.



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Massachusetts Product Stewardship Council (MAPSC)



EPR in the region

Maine

e-waste, thermostats,
car switches, batteries,
fluorescent lamps, bottle bill,
Framework EPR

Vermont

mercury thermostats
certain batteries

New Hampshire

mercury products

Massachusetts

bottle bill, mercury products

Rhode Island

e-waste, mercury products,
Framework EPR study bill

Connecticut

e-waste bill, bottle bill

EPR Guidelines outline the process

Well-developed EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) principles outline roles for government, industry, retailers and consumers. Legislation places the greatest share of responsibility on those who design products and put them in the marketplace: the producers. Some EPR programs are already in place, but many additional product categories must be covered following these general guidelines:

- Producers (or first importers) finance the collection and responsible reuse, recycling or disposition of covered products.
- Governments set goals and performance standards following consultation with stakeholders.
- Producers have the flexibility to design cost-effective means of reaching goals and standards.
- Retailers only sell the designated products from producers who are in compliance of the stewardship requirements.
- State and local governments work with producers and retailers to educate the public about stewardship programs.
- Consumers are responsible for using return systems set up by producers.
- Involving the product designer in the product's end-of-life costs eases the burden on municipalities –and the environment.

Putting EPR to work for municipalities

Clean Water Action is working with municipalities to shift the burden of handling waste and recycling away from taxpayers. Across the country, local governments are beginning to work together to bring about effective product stewardship policies that save tax dollars and impact product design.

Local governments in California, British Columbia, the Northwest, Wisconsin, Vermont, New York, Connecticut and Texas have formed Product Stewardship Councils to influence the development and adoption of EPR legislation and regulation. Working together through a Product Stewardship Council will result in more effective, comprehensive and quick results that will benefit your municipality.

In October 2010 Massachusetts formed a Product Stewardship Council, MAPSC. The steering committee is comprised of representatives from nine municipalities: Cambridge, Carlisle, Holyoke, Newton, Northampton, Salem, Somerville, Springfield, and Worcester. To date, twelve municipalities have signed an EPR resolution, [click here for more information](#). See Newton's resolution [here](#).